Free John C Lairs P M
Jerrysville 18th March

Rev A. A. Phelps
Farmington Ct

with the facts in the case before you & which I trust you will not fail to communicate to me for I am anxious to take that course which will result in the greatest good to the cause of emancipation. I care but little what the people may think of me— Sir I do care But I would not have my own reputation or my own case stand in the way of anything which might tend to advance the cause of human rights Tomorrow I will consult some of my neighbours & if I am wrong in my views I hope they will set me right. I understand that the mobocracy are rather ashamed of their last exploit but are pretty sure should another opportunity offer. that they should do something worth while

Besides the publications distributed in this Town I have put up a number of packages which I design to send to Cornwall immediately and a goodly number will go into other western towns

Very Respectfully Yours
John C Lewis

more. But will they not carry a very different aspect another year I hope they may be sufficient next session to cover the Walls of the Capital let the outside scenery be what it may If we were to circulate the memorial at this time and obtain but few names (and a few would be all that we could expect) might not the enemy consider it as rather a defeat and would it not operate against us another session & next when we hope to do our part of petitioning Many other considerations have arisen in my mind which I can not well pen down. We are a somewhat singular people in this town and are somewhat singularly situated just at this time. With the fundamental principle of equal rights in our eye some of us have been looking for reforms in our social accommodations while those of other vision call our spirit of reformation more other than the Spirit of ultra radicalism So we stand each of the three villages jealous of its own rights and watchful over its neighbors But my dear Sir I hope you will not think that I have come to the conclusion not to circulate the petition— No such thing— Feeling as I did I could not in justice to our own probity do less than frankly give you my present views & putting that you would not take it amiss for me to insist upon your advising me further on the subject. Presuming that I shall feel much confidence in the result of your deliberations with

John E. Lewis
Perrysville 17th March 1836

Rev A A Phelps

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Dear Sir

Yours of the 15th ult has just been rec.
by this evenings Mail. I was extremely glad to hear from you
But I do not feel sure that it will be expedient (though expe-
diency in its modern significations is far from being a favorite word
with me) at this time to circulate the petition in this Town
The people have been nearly taken by surprise and wisely resolved
to the contrary notwithstanding many good men are reflecting
and revolving in their minds the truths which have been laid upon
them. I hope they may prove "like the leaven which a woman took and
hid in three measures of meal" By all means I would follow up the
impression that has been made by every reasonable and judicious
exertion We have just rec'd a liberal supply of publications from
our friends at New York which seem to be very acceptable to the peo-
-ple & we have been taking up a collection as a donation to the A.A.S.
Now we know that our friends or rather the divided friends of emancipation
would receive us again with joy and gladness - But will there not
be danger that many convinced who are yet unwilling heartily to
acknowledge it & who will eventually come over heart and hand
unto the side of truth I say is there not danger that such or some
part of such will consider us as over acting - or as rather above or only
encroaching upon their rights. You will understand me - They
had rather come over themselves than have it seem that they
have been brought over. I am altogether in favor of petitions
& think they have done much good this year & hope they may do still